

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 12 of the application to read as follows:

As shown in FIGS. 1 & 6, the thumb support member 32, on its upper surface, defines a generally concave indentation or recess 50 having a support surface 52 and being of a size to accommodate an average adult user's thumb as the user grasps the handle. The recess is offset laterally from the longitudinal centerline 54 of the handle 16 by an amount sufficient to allow the user's thumb to rest naturally upon the support surface 52 while the user's hand is gripping the handle. The recess 50 is defined by a peripheral wall 51 which can extend completely or substantially around the recess, but preferably the peripheral wall 51 extends around the front and sides of the recess such as wall portions 56, 58 and 60: wall portion 58 is adjacent longitudinal centerline 54 of the handle 16; wall portion 56 is adjacent the front of the recess; and wall portion 60 is opposite to wall portion 58. Preferably, the peripheral wall 51 is higher at the front than at the back of the recess and tapers down in height from the front of the recess along the sides thereof. Accordingly, as shown in FIGS. 8 and 9, the thumb of a user can be seen to rest naturally upon the thumb support member 32, being accommodated and located therein, and being laterally offset from the elongate member of the handle (FIG. 8). The indentation 50 provides a close fit with an average adult user's thumb for a comfortable fit and increasing the user's overall grip on the handle 16 for a particular level of effort. Furthermore, the thumb support member 32 provides increased control over the knife 10 by enabling the user's thumb to exert a downward axial force 70 to the handle to counteract rotation of the knife about its longitudinal axis while the knife is cutting into hard material. The thumb support member also enables the user to exert a downward force to the blade via the thumb of the grasping hand while maintaining the thumb in a comfortable and ergonomic orientation. The thumb support provides for an efficient grip and more control over the knife during use, and it further provides a thumb-force transmitting pressure platform which enables a user to comfortably apply greater cutting pressure to the knife blade.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 21 of the application to read as follows:

Returning to FIGS. 4-6, as with all concave surfaces, the concave recess 50 includes a vertex 72, a center of curvature 74, and a principle axis 76. It is noted that by passing the principle axis 76 through the center of curvature 74 and the vertex 72, the principle axis 76 is substantially perpendicular to and offset from the longitudinal centerline 54 of the handle 16. Also shown by FIGS. 4 and 5 is a bottom surface 78 commencing at the first narrow portion 40 (of FIG. 2) and joining the top surface 80, thereby providing a continuous substantially concave ergonomic support surface 82, configured to accommodate an index finger of a user upon a grasping of the handle 16 (of FIG. 9), by the user as shown by FIG. 9.